

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-25 are presented for examination.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 16-25 are allowed and that claims 2-9 and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gulick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,782). In response, applicant submits a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 enclosed herewith to overcome the Gulick reference.

The submitted declaration illustrates that that the present application had been conceived and reduced to practice in the United States prior to November 23, 1998, the effective filing date of Gulick. Reduction to practice occurs upon proof that the inventor had prepared drawings or other descriptions of the invention that are sufficiently specific to enable a person skilled in the art to practice the invention. *Pfaff v. Wells Elec., Inc.*, 525 U.S. 55.

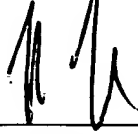
Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the above rejection has been obviated since Gulick has been overcome by the enclosed 37 C.F.R. §1.131 declaration. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by and remark, and that the claims as are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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